

Appln. No. 09/752,037
Amendment dated July 25, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed May 23, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

1 1. (Currently Amended) A method of handling a call from a caller to
2 a communication device, the method comprising:
3 receiving the call;
4 determining if the communication device is in a privacy operating
5 mode or a normal operating mode; and
6 if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode ,
7 completing the call if a privacy mode code is entered by the caller.

1 2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising if
2 the communication device is in the privacy operating mode, routing the call
3 to a message system if no privacy mode code is entered by the caller.

1 3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the privacy mode code
2 is selected by a user of the communication device.

1 4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the communication
2 device is one of: a cellular telephone and a personal digital assistant.

1 5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the method is
2 performed by one of: a base station and a switch.

1 6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising
2 the step of receiving a request from the communication device to place the
3 communication device in the privacy operating mode from the normal
4 operating mode.

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1 7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the request further
2 comprises:

3 a privacy mode message selected by a user of the communication
4 device and adapted to be provided to the caller prior to completing
5 the call; and
6 the privacy mode code selected by the user of the communication
7 device.

1 8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising
2 the step of receiving a request from the communication device to place the
3 communication device out of the privacy operating mode.

1 9. (Currently Amended) A method of handling a call from a caller to
2 a communication device, the method comprising:

3 receiving the call;
4 determining if the communication device is in a privacy operating
5 mode or a normal operating mode; and
6 if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode,
7 providing a privacy mode message including a selected privacy
8 override code to the caller.

1 10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising
2 if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode, completing
3 the call if the selected privacy override code is entered by the caller.

1 11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising
2 if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode, routing the
3 call to a message system if no selected privacy override code is entered by
4 the caller.

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1 12. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the privacy mode
2 message is selected from a group of prerecorded messages.

1 13. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the privacy mode
2 message is recorded by a user of the communication device.

1 14. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the privacy override
2 code is selected by a user of the communication device.

1 15. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the communication
2 device is a cellular telephone or a personal digital assistant.

1 16. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the method is
2 performed by a base station or a switch.

1 17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising
2 the step of receiving a request from the communication device to place the
3 communication device in the privacy operating mode.

1 18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the request further
2 comprises:
3 the privacy mode message selected by a user of the communication
4 device and adapted to be provided to the caller upon receiving the call; and
5 the privacy override code selected by the user of the communication
6 device.

1 19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, further comprising
2 the step of receiving a request from the communication device to place the
3 communication device out of the privacy operating mode.

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1 20. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having
2 instructions for causing a computer to perform a method of handling a call
3 from a caller to a communication device, the method comprising:
4 receiving the call;
5 determining if the communication device is in a privacy operating
6 mode or a normal operating mode; and
7 if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode,
8 completing the call if a predetermined code is entered by the caller.

1 21. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 20,
2 further comprising if the communication device is in the privacy operating
3 mode, routing the call to a message system if no predetermined code is
4 entered by the caller.

1 22. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having
2 instructions for causing a computer to perform a method of handling a call
3 from a caller to a communication device, the method comprising:
4 receiving the call;
5 determining if the communication device is in a privacy operating
6 mode or in a normal operating mode; and
7 if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode,
8 providing a privacy mode message including a selected privacy
9 override code to the caller.

1 23. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 22,
2 further comprising if the communication device is in the privacy operating
3 mode, completing the call if the privacy override code is entered by the
4 caller.

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1 24. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 22,
2 further comprising if the communication device is in the privacy operating
3 mode, routing the call to a message system if no privacy override code is
4 entered by the caller.

1 25. (Currently Amended) A system for handling a call from a caller
2 to a user of a communication device, the system comprising:
3 a data entry device capable of receiving input to cause the
4 communication device to enter a privacy operating mode from a
5 normal operating mode;
6 a memory capable of storing a privacy mode message, the privacy
7 mode message adapted to be provided to the caller prior to
8 completing the call to the user; and
9 a receiver capable of completing the call to the user if a privacy mode
10 code is entered by the caller.

1 26. (Original) The system of claim 25, further wherein the receiver is
2 capable of routing the call to a message system if no privacy mode code is
3 entered by the caller.

1 27. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the data entry device
2 is a telephone keypad.

1 28. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the privacy mode
2 code comprises at least one keystroke from the data entry device.

1 29. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the privacy mode
2 code is selected by the user of the communication device.

1 30. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the communication
2 device is one of: a cellular telephone and a personal digital assistant.

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1 31. (Currently Amended) A system for handling a call from a caller
2 to a user of a communication device, the system comprising:
3 a data entry device capable of receiving input to cause the
4 communication device to enter a privacy operating mode from a
5 normal operating mode; and
6 a memory capable of providing a privacy mode message including a
7 selected privacy override code to the caller prior to completing the
8 call to the user.

1 32. (Original) The system of claim 31, further comprising a receiver
2 capable of completing the call to the user if the selected privacy override
3 code is entered by the caller.

1 33. (Original) The system of claim 32, further wherein the receiver is
2 capable of routing the call to a message system if no selected privacy
3 override code is entered by the caller.

1 34. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein the selected privacy
2 override code is provided by the user of the communication device.

1 35. (Currently Amended) A system for handling a call from a caller
2 to a user of a communication device, the system comprising:
3 a data entry device capable of receiving input to cause the
4 communication device to enter a privacy operating mode from a
5 normal operating mode; and
6 a receiver capable of receiving the call to the communication device
7 and completing the call to the user only if an interrupt is received
8 from the caller.

1 36. (Original) The system of claim 35, wherein the interrupt is a
2 privacy mode code entered by the caller.

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1 37. (Currently Amended) A system for handling a call from a caller
2 to a user of a communication device, the system comprising:
3 a receiver capable of receiving the call and a privacy mode code
4 entered by the caller;
5 a memory capable of storing a status indicating if the communication
6 device is in a privacy operating mode or a normal operating mode;
7 and
8 a transmitter capable of completing the call to the user if the
9 communication device is in the privacy operating mode and the
10 privacy mode code is entered by the caller.

1 38. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, wherein the
2 memory is further capable of storing a message from the caller if the
3 communication device is in the privacy operating mode and no privacy mode
4 code is entered by the caller.

1 39. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the memory is further
2 capable of storing a privacy mode message adapted to be provided to the
3 caller prior to completing the call to the user.

1 40. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, wherein the
2 receiver is further capable of receiving a request from the communication
3 device to place the communication device in the privacy mode.

1 41. (Original) The system of claim 40, wherein the request further
2 comprises:
3 a privacy mode message selected by a user of the communication
4 device and adapted to be provided to the caller prior to completing
5 the call to the user; and
6 the privacy mode code selected by the user of the communication
7 device.

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1 42. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 40, wherein the
2 receiver is further capable of receiving a request from the communication
3 device to place the communication device out of the privacy operating mode
4 and into the normal operating mode.

1 43. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the communication
2 device is one of: a cellular telephone and a personal digital assistant.

1 44. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 additionally
2 comprising, if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode,
3 passing the call to a voice messaging system if the privacy mode code is not
4 entered by the caller, the voice messaging system being capable of
5 recording a message spoken by the caller making the call.

1 45. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 additionally
2 comprising, if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode,
3 blocking completion of the call until the privacy mode code is entered.

1 46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 additionally
2 comprising, if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode,
3 preventing the communication device from producing an incoming call
4 signal if the privacy mode code is not entered by the caller.

1 47. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 additionally
2 comprising, if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode,
3 preventing the communication device from producing an incoming call
4 signal for all calls for which the caller does not enter the privacy mode
5 code.

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1 48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 additionally
2 comprising, if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode,
3 requiring entry of the privacy mode code by the caller before the
4 communication device produces an incoming call signal.

49. (Cancelled)

1 50. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[[49]]] 1 wherein the
2 normal operating mode ~~of operation~~ is characterized by producing an
3 incoming call signal upon receipt of the call, and the privacy operating
4 mode is characterized by producing the incoming call signal only if the
5 caller has entered the privacy mode code.

1 51. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising,
2 if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode, announcing
3 the privacy mode code to the caller.

1 52. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of
2 providing a privacy mode message including a selected privacy override
3 code to the caller further comprises announcing the privacy override code to
4 the caller.

1 53. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further
2 comprising the step of receiving a spoken command from a user of the
3 communication device to place the communication device in the
4 privacy operating mode.

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1 54. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 additionally
2 comprising, if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode,
3 preventing the communication device from producing an incoming call
4 signal if the privacy mode code is not entered by the caller while providing
5 information regarding the incoming call through a display on the
6 communication device.

1 55. (New) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising, if the
2 communication device is in the normal operating mode , completing the call
3 regardless of whether the privacy mode code is entered by the caller..